

March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 13th 2019, The Canterbury Board of Finance voted unanimously in opposition of the following proposed bills.

- HB-7319 An Act Concerning Fiscal Independence of School Districts
- SB- 738 An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts
- SB-457 An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts

Canterbury's rural charm is something that as a town we value highly. Part of this is our small but strong school system. We often hear that our schools are one of the main reasons families are drawn to Canterbury. Maintaining the integrity and quality of our education system, while striving for efficiency is one of our top priorities. . The above pieces of legislation have the potential to drastically alter not only how our school system runs, but the quality of life for all Canterburians.

In regards to HB-7319, An Act Concerning Fiscal Independence of School Districts, we aim to express our concern with how this bill may conflict with our current Town ordinances. In addition, this bill may affect the collaboration between the Town and Board of Education which is currently facilitated by the Board of Finance. Furthermore, this collaboration is crucial to the efficiency of our small town. Creation of a separate taxing district stands to create duplication of services within the town with reduced efficiency.

We strongly urge you to consider our opinion in making your decision.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Vincent on behalf of,

The Canterbury Board of Finance

cc: Chris Lippkee , First Selectman of Canterbury  
Vivian Thumser, Canterbury Board of Education Chair  
Dr. Lois Knapton, Superintendent,